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Administrator Kathy Greenlee's Blog on National Preparedness Month

September marks the observance of National Preparedness Month. It is a time to prepare yourself and those in your care for emergencies and disasters. Whether you are an older adult, an individual with a disability, or a family member caring for a loved one with functional needs, each person's needs and abilities are unique. By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan, you can be better prepared for any situation. Older people, people with Alzheimer's or dementia, and people with disabilities can avoid a lot of hassles and stress in times of emergency by having a good plan in place. [Read more](#) in this blog by ACL Administrator Kathy Greenlee.

Also read the [Presidential Proclamation](#) and [Statement by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#).

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Next Meeting of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council

The third meeting of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council will be held on September 24, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Washington, DC. The Council will receive from the [Federal Interagency Elder Justice Working Group](#), a summary of the strategic action steps for the [nine proposals](#) to advance federal involvement in the prevention, detection, and prosecution of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The proposals were presented to the Council at the spring meeting held on May 13, 2013.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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ACL Conference Call: *Ethics of Family Dementia Care: Navigating Tough Decisions*

Thursday, September 12, 2013, 3:00 p.m.–4:15 p.m. EST

Presented by ACL, this conference call is part of the Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program Technical Assistance Call Series. The purpose of these calls is to provide helpful, current, and applicable information for professionals who work with people with dementia and/or their caregivers.

Participants will learn about:

- Common, practical, ethical decisions in daily living and family care over the course of neurodegenerative dementia
- Five common ethical or moral concerns of families when autonomy, best interests, and justice are most likely to collide
- Helping families through ethical decision making

[Online Registration](#).

Materials and dial-in information will be emailed after registration is complete.

Note: Space is limited, so register as early as possible.

This call will also be recorded and posted to the [Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program webpage](#)

HHS News

Give Your Input to the National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) currently seeks feedback from a wide array of stakeholders, including organizations and professional groups, on the draft version of the [National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention](#). The 30-day public comment period will continue through 5:00 p.m. on October 3, 2013. [Click here](#) to submit your comments.

Adverse drug events (ADEs) are the largest contributor to hospital-related complications, and they account for more than 3.5 million physician office visits each year. ADEs affect patients across all healthcare settings throughout

the United States. They result in medical complications, rising healthcare expenditures, and, in some cases, avoidable deaths.

HHS, in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, developed the National Action Plan for Adverse Drug Event Prevention to address the growing number of ADEs. The plan is a comprehensive strategy to reduce and prevent the dangers associated with the sources of more than two-thirds of all ADEs: anticoagulants, diabetes agents, and opioids. [Read the Federal Register Notice.](#)

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HHS Strategic Plan Available for Public Comment

Every four years, HHS updates its strategic plan, which describes its work to address complex, multifaceted, and ever-evolving health and human service issues. Under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act, Federal agencies are required to consult with Congress and to solicit and consider the views of external parties.

The draft [HHS Strategic Plan for FY 2014-2018](#) is on the HHS website and is available for public comment. Comments will be accepted through October 15, 2013.

You can submit your comments by:

Email to strategicplanning@hhs.gov

Fax to (202) 690-8252

U.S. Mail to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Strategic Planning Team
Attn: Strategic Plan Comments
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 446F.8
Washington, DC 20201

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Webinars

Health Insurance Marketplace Training Webinars

This month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will continue to offer Health Insurance Marketplace training webinars. Read the descriptions, review the schedule, and select the session that best meets your information needs.

September 11, 2013, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. ET: Understanding the Health Insurance Marketplace

This webinar is designed for those who help people make informed health coverage decisions. This detailed review of the Marketplace includes eligibility, enrollment, plan structure, Medicaid expansion, and the streamlined application. This session covers many of the same topics as the Health Insurance Marketplace 101 session, but in more depth. [Register](#).

September 25, 2013, 1:00 p.m.– 2:00 p.m. ET: Health Insurance Marketplace 101

This webinar is for people who want to better understand the basics of the Health Insurance Marketplace. It includes an overview of the accomplishments of the Affordable Care Act, and a basic introduction to the Marketplace, highlighting who is eligible and how the Marketplace will work. [Register](#).

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Suicide Prevention Awareness Week Webinar

Tuesday, September 10, 2013, 2:00–4:30 p.m. ET: Advancing Older Americans and Behavioral Health Collaboration: Closing the Gap

Co-sponsored by the Administration for Community Living and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, this webinar will examine efforts in the state of New York to address the behavioral health needs of older Americans.

Agenda Topics:

- Examination of the Geriatric Mental Health Act of New York State, the first Act of its kind in the nation, which laid the groundwork for addressing the mental health needs of older adults in New York.
- Briefing on the two rounds of service demonstration grants awarded to integrate physical and behavioral health care and the first round of health integration projects (2007–2012).

[Register](#).

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Webinar Series on Leading Healthcare Practices and Training: Defining and Delivering “Disability-Competent Care”

The CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office is facilitating this webinar series for interested providers and health care professionals, front-line staff with health plans and practices, and stakeholders to introduce and explore the many uses of the Disability-Competent Care (DCC) Model. DCC is centered on the individual, delivered by an interdisciplinary team, and focused on achieving and supporting an individual's maximum function. Providers serving adults with disabilities developed the care model. [Click here](#) to register for one or both sessions.

September 10, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET: Understanding the Lived Experience of Disability

Learn about:

- Common barriers faced by persons living with disabilities
- Disability culture and awareness
- The language of disability-competent care: participant, people with disabilities (vs. handicapped")
- Understanding how disability-competent care and person-centered care differs from standard health care delivery

September 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET: The Care Management Relationship (Or "Person-Centered" Care Management)

Agenda:

- The importance of establishing the relationship between each participant and the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)
- Lessons from care management studies
- The difference between case management and person-centered care management
- Overview of self-directed care
- Introduction to the IDT component of the DCC model of care

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Webinars from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. ET: Teamwork in Long-Term Care

This webinar will examine the use of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's teamwork training program, TeamSTEPPSR, and how to incorporate the tools and resources in a long term care setting. [Register](#).

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. ET: Using the Innovations Exchange to Develop Health Professional Competencies

This webinar will explore how the Innovations Exchange's rich collection of novel health care practices and tools is being used to develop competencies for nurses and interdisciplinary teams. [Register](#).

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Webinar on Falls Prevention

Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. ET: Preventing Falls in Adults with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions: What Works?

Co-sponsored by the American Association on Health and Disability and the United Spinal Association, this webinar will explain how to effectively prevent falls and explore the unique challenges of fall prevention among men and women with disabilities. [Register](#).

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Tools & Information

Now Available: 2011 Profiles of State OAA Programs (Parts A-K) and US Totals

The 2011 Profiles of State OAA Programs (Parts A-K) are now posted on the Administration on Aging website [here](#). These Excel files include U.S. totals, in addition to the state-specific spreadsheets, with information collected primarily through the State Program Report.

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New Nutrition Resource from the National Institute on Aging

The National Institute on Aging recently launched a new online nutrition resource, [What's On Your Plate? Smart Food Choices for Older Adults](#). This website gives older adults, caregivers, and health professionals facts about healthy eating and aging and encourages smart food choices. The easy-to-navigate website includes video and practical tips to help older adults live a healthier lifestyle.

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Online Course on Care of Elders with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Major Neurocognitive Disorders

Offered online through Johns Hopkins University, School of Nursing, this course is designed to accommodate the learning needs of health professionals related to dementia care. Emphasis will be placed on exploring innovations in care through an ecological model of dementia care throughout the trajectory of the disorder.

The course is free and will continue for five weeks beginning in mid-October. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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Federal Communications Commission Extends Deadline for Comments on Closed Captioning Issues

The Federal Communications Commission has extended the public comment period to November 4, 2013 and the reply comment period to December 4, 2013 for input on *Closed Captioning of Internet Protocol-Delivered Video Programming: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010*.

For additional information, including guidance on how to submit comments and how to reply to comments, contact Diana Sokolow, Diana.Sokolow@fcc.gov or Maria Mullarkey, Maria.Mullarkey@fcc.gov, of the Federal Communications Commission Media Bureau, Policy Division, (202) 418-2120.

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September Observances

Month:

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month
[Presidential Proclamation](#)

National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

National Senior Center Month
Theme: Senior Centers: Experts at Living Well; [Resource Materials](#)

National Recovery Month
[Statement by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#)

Week:

Active Aging Week (9/22-9/28)

Day:

September 10: World Suicide Prevention Day

September 11: National Day of Service

September 18: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day



National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

Join the 6th annual [National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day \(NHAAAD\)](#) hosted by the AIDS Institute and observed on September 18, 2013. NHAAAD day focuses on the challenging issues facing the aging population with regards to HIV prevention, testing, care and treatment. In addition, there is an increased need for prevention, research, and data targeting the aging population, medical understanding of the aging process, and its impact on HIV/AIDS.

The campaign targets:

- People living with HIV/AIDS who are aging with the disease or already over 50 at the time of their initial diagnosis,
- Increasing the use of protection from HIV infection, especially among the baby boomer population, and
- The increasing number of grandparents becoming the primary guardians for children who have lost their parent(s) to HIV/AIDS.

In an effort to continually expand awareness about HIV/AIDS among the aging population, organizations and community members are invited to develop, implement, and participate in awareness activities and events on or around September 18th. Helpful resources include the free [NHAAAD Toolkit](#) and the [HIV: Know the RISKS. Get the FACTS. Older Adults and HIV/AIDS Toolkit](#). Click [here](#) to register your NHAAAD event.

For more information on older adults and HIV/AIDS, visit the [AoA Older Adults and HIV/AIDS webpage](#).

September 22: National Falls Prevention Awareness Day

September 26: 40th Anniversary of Rehabilitation Act

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